back the Stinger Missiles from Afghan Mujahideen. Government have information to indicate that Pakistan has evinced interest since 1992 in procuring T-72/T80 Tanks, Artillery Guns, Night Sights, Tank Transporters, SU-27 aircraft and Mig-29 aircraft from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments and eventualities impinging on our national security and takes appropriate measures from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness.

Training to arms for non-conventional war

944. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take any steps to train army in fighting non-conventional war such as terrorism and insurgency which are aided and abetted by foreign countries ;

(b) whether Government have drawn any conclusion from the present seige of Hazratbal shrine in Kashmir ; and

(c) if so, the details of the action Government propose to take to reorient army training ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) The existing training curriculum is adequate for meeting the training requirements of the Army to deal with terrorism and insurgencies including cases such as the recent seige of Hazratbal shrine in Kashmir.

945. [*Transferred to 15th December*, 1993].

Non-suitablity of Arjun Tank in desert

946. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI AJUBHAI A. PARMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Arjun, the main battle tank of recent past developed by the DRDO has shown signs of latent and patent weakness with regard to its suitability for operations in the Thar desert of Rajasthan ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, and what steps are being taken to develop a suitable engine that may not get heated up during operations in deserts ; and

(c) what progress has so far been made in the project for the development of the new Main Battle Tank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Based on excellent performance of the ARJUN tank in automotive trials and weapon system firing trials held in desert area during Jan/Feb 1993, the Army has given acceptance for induction of ARJUN Tank. Further user trials are progressing well and improvements are also being incorporated based on the feed back of trials.

(c) (i) 12 MK-I prototypes developed and subjected to technical-cum-user trials for more than 20000 Km.

(ii) 6 Pre-production series tanks of Main Battle Tank-Arjun manufactured and handed over to the users for user/troop trials.

(iii) 9 more pre-production series tanks are under manufacture.

(iv) Planning for bulk production of MBT ARJUN has been initiated.

Indian Soldeirs deployed in Cambodia

947. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there were Indian soliders among the UNTAC troops deployed in Cambodia in the implementation of the Cambodian peace process ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many of the Indian soldiers have been tested positive for Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) ;

(c) whether it has been reported that this involvement of Indian peacekeeping

forces, has caused embarassment to India ; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to ensure enforcement of stricter discipline in the rank posted abroad, in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) A total of 2358 personnel were deployed at UNTAC, Cambodia, between June 1992 to November 1993. A few personnel have tested HIV positive on return. These personnel have been put under surveillance. Necessary measures have been taken to educate the troops on all aspects related to AIDS and stricter discipline in being enforced on the UN-bound troops.

Not withstanding this, the Indian troops by dint of their devotion to duty and sense of discipline have won praise from all quarters.

Depending on foreign equipments for defence

948. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of country's ; defence services wings dependency on foreign equipments and by what percentage foreign dependency has increased/decreased during the last decade ;

(b) what is the comparative Five Year Plan allocation during the succesive plans for the Defence Research and Development of advanced technologies and defence production to reduct foreign dependency ;

(c) what are the results achieved so far ;

(d) whether Government have made any critical analysis with regard to flaws in defence policy ; and

(e) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government to bring about reforms in the Defence services ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) Import of Defence equipments/stores is resorted to only after examining the techno-economic feasibility of indigenous production within the requisite time-frame. India has a strong research and development base and also a sizeable production infrastructure for manufacture of Defence stores. Efforts are continuously made to reduce the import of defence stores, both to save foreign exchange and attain self-reliance. It will not be desirable in the security interest to disclose further details.

(d) Government does not perceive any flaws in the defence policy.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Replacement of Mig-21 fighter fleet

949. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK :
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that eight squadrons of older MIG-21 fighter fleet face the shadow of retirement and obsolescence ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government for the replacement thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Replacement of Aircraft on completion of their useful life is a continuous and on-going process. As originally planned, older version of MIG-21 would have been phased out by 2000 A.D. In order to derive maximum benefit from the available resources, life of these aircraft is being extended to the extent feasible through inspections & modifications. Besides, MIG-21 BIS aircraft is planned to be upgraded.